



## McGREGOR W. SCOTT

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **THREE INDICTED IN \$1.3 MILLION CRYSTAL METH CONSPIRACY**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in Fresno indicted today VICENTE GONZALEZ, aka Carlos Contreras Villa-Gomez, aka Benigno Gonzales Contreras, 39, and his wife, ERIKA VALDOVINOS, 23, both of Apatzingan, Michoacan, Mexico, and UBALDO AYON-HERRERA, 38, of Bakersfield, California, of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute approximately 15 pounds of crystal methamphetamine.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

According to court documents, AYON-HERRERA and GONZALEZ, who has two prior felony drug convictions and a \$500,000 warrant pending from San Diego for conspiring to possess a controlled substance, delivered about 15 pounds of crystal methamphetamine during an undercover transaction at an Albertson's grocery store parking lot in Bakersfield after negotiating for the purchase of between 10 and 50 pounds of crystal methamphetamine. During those negotiations, GONZALEZ indicated that he could obtain up to 100 pounds of crystal methamphetamine. On September 19, 2007, he and VALDOVINOS, along with their four year old child, transported about 28 grams of crystal methamphetamine to a Denny's parking lot in Fresno.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen A. Escobar, who is prosecuting the case, the defendants face a sentence of 10 years to life imprisonment and \$4,000,000 fine, if convicted of conspiracy. GONZALEZ faces mandatory life based on his two drug priors. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

"The crystal methamphetamine disrupted by this investigation had a street value of \$1.3 million. The DEA is to be lauded for their continued efforts to target dangerous drugs," United States Attorney Scott said.

According to Javier Peña, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's San Francisco Division, "Crystal methamphetamine has been an extremely destructive force in our communities. We will continue to reduce the supply of methamphetamine through our continued collaborative efforts with local law enforcement agencies."

The charges in the indictment are only allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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